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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR BROADBAND PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND BROADBAND RADIO SERVICE¹ LICENSEES IN AREAS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE WILMA

Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Wilma, President Bush issued a major disaster declaration for certain parts of Florida ("affected areas") on October 24, 2005.² Pursuant to our authority to waive rules for good cause³ and to alleviate any additional burden that may be caused by our regulatory deadlines, as more specifically provided below, for affected licensees, we hereby extend the payment deadline and waive the accrual of certain late fees for installment payments due on October 31, 2005. In this context, "affected" licensees include those licensees that operate facilities, or, in a significant manner essential to their business operations, rely on personnel, records, or financial institutions located in the affected areas to provide services or to conduct substantial business activities with the Commission.

To the extent necessary, we hereby waive for all affected licensees, the post-auction payment deadlines contained in Sections 1.2110(g)(4)(ii) and 1.2110(g)(4)(iv) of the Commission's rules for payments due on October 31, 2005, and extend those payment deadlines that were due on October 31, 2005 until December 22, 2005. We also hereby waive the accrual of any late fees pursuant to Sections 1.2110(g)(4)(i) and 1.2110(g)(4)(ii) of the Commission's rules for any payments due on October 31, 2005 for affected licensees until December 22, 2005. Affected applicants and licensees must include a certification upon the penalty of perjury that the October 31, 2005 deadlines could not be met within the time otherwise provided in the Commission's rules because of the hurricane. Certifications must accompany the subsequent filing or payment for which the deadline has been waived. For all others, i.e., those not affected by the hurricane, the Part 1, Subpart Q rules remain in effect, and the Commission's rules concerning late filings, late payments or non-payments will be enforced. For questions related to Part 1, Subpart Q please contact Rita Cookmeyer at (202) 418-0434; (202) 418-1159 (fax); Rita.Cookmeyer@fcc.gov.

¹ Radio services authorized in Parts 24 and 27 of the Commission's rules.

² See http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=20006 (October 24, 2005). The affected parts of Florida are the counties of Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, St. Lucie, and Sarasota. More counties may be designated after assessments are fully completed in the affected areas by FEMA.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 1.3.